

Application Ser. No.: 10/075,635  
Filing Date: February 13, 2002  
Examiner: Coleman, Brenda Libby

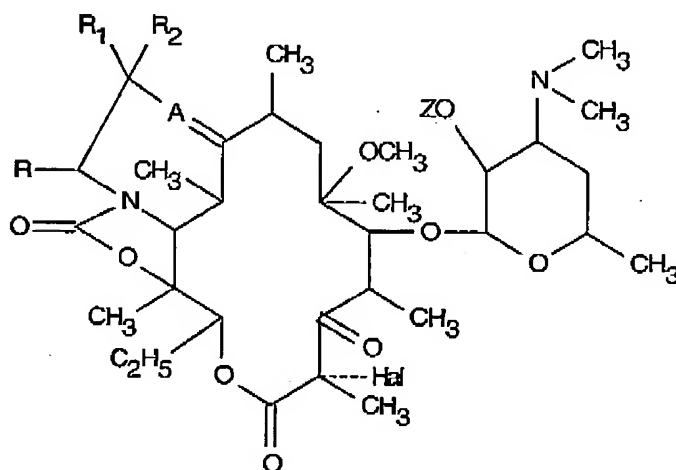
**Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims set forth below with amendments as indicated will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I):



(I);

wherein:

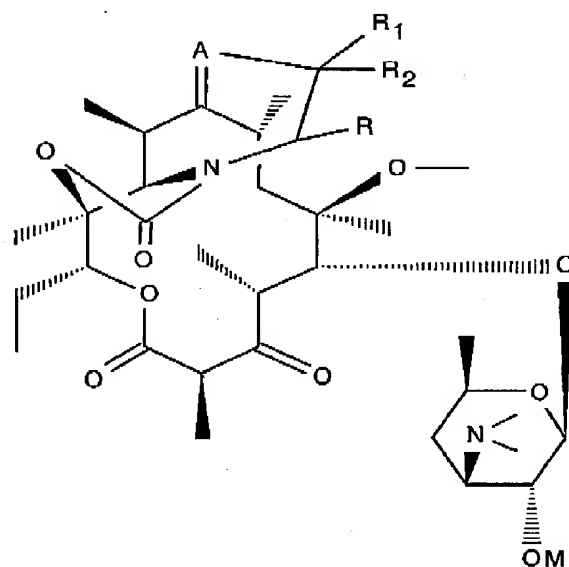
A is nitrogen or N→O;

Hal is halogen;

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and are independently chosen from hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl;

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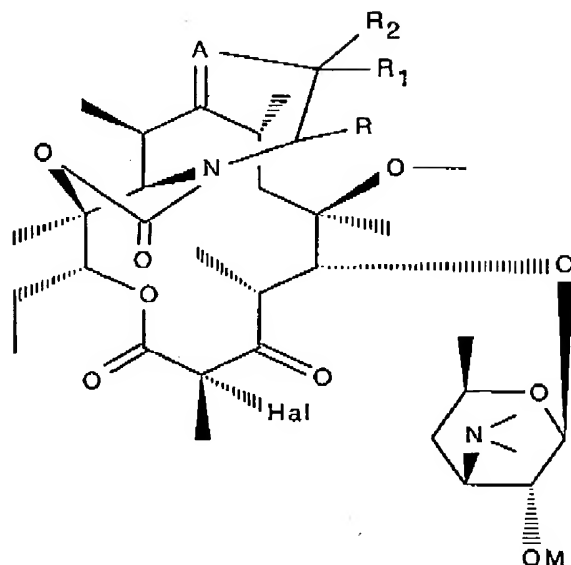
R is  $-(CH_2)_mOB$ ; wherein  
 m is an integer from 1 to 8; and  
 B is hydrogen,  $-COAr$  or  $-(CH_2)_n-Ar$ ; wherein  
 n is an integer from 1 to 8; and  
 Ar is a mono- or polycyclic aryl or heteroaryl;  
 Z is hydrogen or  $C_1-C_{18}$ -acyl;  
 said process comprising:  
 reacting a compound of formula (IIIA)



(IIIA);

wherein:  
 A, R, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as defined above; and  
 M is a hydroxyl protecting group;  
 with a suitable halogenating agent to obtain a compound of the formula IB:

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(IB); and

reacting the compound of formula (IB) with a suitable deprotecting agent to obtain the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen.

15. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen with a suitable esterification agent to obtain the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-acyl.
16. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen with a suitable acid to form the corresponding acid addition salt of the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is hydrogen.
17. (New) The process as set forth in claim 15, further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-acyl with a suitable acid to form the

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corresponding acid addition salt of the compound of formula (I) wherein Z is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-acyl.

18. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein M is a silyl protecting group.
19. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein M is trimethylsilyl group.
20. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein said halogenation is carried out in the presence of a suitable base.
21. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein said halogenation is carried out in the presence of potassium tert-butoxide.
22. (New) The process as set forth in claim 14, wherein said halogenating agent is of the formula:

